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Sport for peace and development: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

Solemn appeal made by the President of the General Assembly on 8 February 2010 in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce

The President of the General Assembly has the honour to make the following solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce:

"The ancient Greek tradition of the *ekecheiria*, or 'Olympic Truce', born in the eighth century B.C., serves as a hallowed principle of the Olympic Games. In 1992, the International Olympic Committee renewed this tradition by calling upon all nations to observe the Truce.

"Through its resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993, the General Assembly urged Member States to observe the Olympic Truce from the seventh day before the opening to the seventh day following the closing of each Olympic Games. This appeal was renewed in the Millennium Declaration.

"In the 2005 World Summit Outcome, our leaders emphasized that 'sports can foster peace and development', and encouraged the General Assembly to foster a dialogue and agreed proposals for a plan of action on sport and development.

"On 3 November 2005, the General Assembly held a plenary debate on the agenda item entitled 'Sport for peace and development', and also adopted, with universal support, resolution 60/8, entitled 'Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal', deciding to consider this item every two years in advance of each Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

"To this end, on 19 October 2009, the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/4. In that resolution, the Assembly urged Member States to observe, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, during the XXI Winter Olympic Games, to be held in Vancouver from 12 to 28 February 2010, and the X Paralympic Winter Games, to be held from 12 to 21 March 2010.

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"The Olympic movement aspires to contribute to a peaceful future for all humankind through the educational value of sport. The Games will bring together athletes from all parts of the world in the greatest of international sports events as a means to promote peace, mutual understanding and goodwill among nations and peoples — goals that are also part of the founding values of the United Nations.

"As an expression of these common objectives, in 1998 the International Olympic Committee decided to fly the United Nations flag at all competition sites of the Olympic Games. The United Nations system and the International Olympic Committee have subsequently strengthened their mutual cooperation and support through joint endeavours in fields such as poverty alleviation, human and economic development, humanitarian assistance, education, health promotion and HIV/AIDS prevention, gender equality, environmental protection and peacebuilding.

"Recognizing the importance of sport and the Olympic ideals, and in order to further promote the cooperation between the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee, the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/3 of 19 October 2009, decided to invite the International Olympic Committee to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer.

"As President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, I solemnly appeal to all Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the Olympic Truce for the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and world levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and harmony based on the spirit of the Truce."